Many thanks to the parents and students who attended the Elective Subject Information Evening on Monday. The evening went well with a reasonable number in attendance. The Eddy Rice Centre provided a nice ambience in which students and parents could work together to answer some of those pressing questions.

Many thanks to the teachers involved who volunteered their time for this activity. Big thanks also to Ms Tricia Scott for preparing the Eddy Rice Centre so well for us.

We are now at a stage where the electronic input form is open for access by students to enter their 6 choices ranked in order of preference. Access to the form is via the College web site. The input form remains available until close of business on Friday 28 Aug. This year, students are constrained to one submission attempt, so it is important that they do not put their entries in until they are certain of their 6 choices and the ranking of those choices. Students will need to be logged into their Gmail account to access the input form.

Aug 25
Personal Development time for students to access teachers of elective subjects regarding any queries.

Aug 25
Elective subject choice input form made available to Year 8 and 9 students.

Aug 28
Elective subject choice input form closed for student entry.

Sep 25
Students will be informed of allocations for 2016. Students will be notified by the end of term as to what their provisional allocations will be for 2016. It will be possible to change these allocations during Term 4, subject to negotiation.

Dr John Snell
DIRECTOR OF LEARNING and TEACHING

As many of our students are making decisions about their education within the College and beyond, I draw your attention to a recently launched website that aims to support career development across the community. Grow Careers provides a wealth of information for students and parents and has valuable links to a range of relevant websites, as well as advice for parents and students along the way.


Nina Dobie (Student Pathways Co-ordinator)

It is with mixed emotions that I pen my last Newsletter message. As I considered what the topic should be I reflected on the last 8 years and my time at the College and realised that building resilience in adolescents and a strong sense of self-belief have been enduring themes through most of my writing. As an educator I know that letting teenagers struggle through the difficulties of life and finding their way, teaching them to navigate their future, but as a parent I have a desire to fix things for my children when they go wrong, and therein lies the tension, between the head and the heart.

There is a saying that, “The donkey brings you to the door but the means whereby you enter the house.” There are endless interpretations of this saying but if it is applied to our children, it could reflect the fact that, because we bought a desk for our children to use, it does not mean that each night they will go to it and do their homework; likewise, because we have sent our children to a “good” school, does not necessarily mean that they will be good students.

It is our children’s sense of self that will influence the manner in which they will respond to whatever we provide for them. In fact, it is that sense of self by which they will deal with all of life’s tasks and challenges. Our children will develop a self-concept primarily through the way in which they understand what their parents, teachers and peers reflect back to them. This is why we, as parents, need to be thoughtful about how we might influence their way of thinking and so their beliefs, their approach to life, their attitude about themselves and about their abilities.

As adults we are fully aware that the beliefs that young people get into their heads become the rules that control their actions for good or for not-so-good. Our society frequently reports to us that the differences that people experience throughout their lives are closely connected with the beliefs they hold about themselves and their place in the world in which they live.

When helping to shape our children’s beliefs, we need to be careful that our own “good intentions” don’t, in fact, make our children feel anxious or limited. To tell our children that they are smart or gifted may not be helpful to them at all. They might like to hear this, but then they might become anxious about failure: “What if I put a lot of effort into something and I fail; this might prove that I am not as smart or gifted or talented as my parents believe me to be.” There could be a touch of “donkey” and “house” in this.

When, if helping to shape our children’s beliefs, we concentrated on our children’s efforts rather than their ability, our praise might help them to value themselves for the effort they put towards achieving the goal itself. We can help them experience a sense of worth through the effort, the learning and the growth rather than the sense of worth being attached to the result. We help develop a belief that, “the harder I work, the smarter I get” and avoid a belief that, “because I am smart, I don’t have to work hard”.

As we shape our children’s self-belief, we hopefully are preparing our children to be self-assured, fully-functioning individuals who are prepared to take control of their situations, whilst also being people who are caring, loving and lovable.

As my time at the College draws to a close I want to thank each and every one of you for your support throughout my time at MacKillop. When I consider what I will miss most about my time here it is the relationships that are forged and strengthened as we work towards a common goal – the education of young people. I am very proud of the staff at MacKillop and know that they will continue to work tirelessly to provide a quality education for all students. I am also confident that the College’s Leadership Team, Board of Management and Governing Council will ensure that the leadership transition will be seamless for all. I look forward to seeing where the College heads in the coming years. It has been a privilege and an honour to lead this school.

STAFF NEWS
Mrs Sue Howard has been appointed Acting Principal for the remainder of the school year. On behalf of the College I wish every blessing on Mrs Howard’s new role as Acting Principal.

Ms Sharyn Wilson has stepped down from her role as Aboriginal Student Support Teacher after many years in the position. During her time in the role Sharyn has shown a commitment to the wellbeing and support of the College’s students and has put a lot of hard work into cultural awareness opportunities for all students. We thank Sharyn and wish her well in her retirement.

Mr Sam Cramer will step into this role for the remainder of 2015.

Mrs Patricia Graham will commence her Long Service Leave next week. Mrs Graham will be on leave for the remainder of the 2015 school year. On behalf of the College I wish Mrs Graham a relaxing and restful break. Mrs Sandra Doyle will take on the responsibilities of Mrs Graham’s teaching classes. Mr Murray Herbert will be Acting Head of Mathematics during this time.

ATHLETICS CARNIVAL
With perfect weather conditions our annual MacKillop Athletics Carnival was a huge success last week. It was encouraging to see the high level of student participation and the tremendous spirit in which...
students took part. I was particularly impressed by the manner in which our Year 10 students led by their fine example. With the hard work and dedication of Mrs Patricia Geappen, and support of Miss Laura Robinson, our House Patrons and Captains, it was destined to be a great success. This success, however, could not have been achieved without the assistance of all staff and the high level of participation and cooperation from students. I take this opportunity to thank and congratulate the Mackillop Catholic College community for such a memorable event.

Congratulations also to Lochaber, led by Sheridan Penwright and Daniel Webb, who were the eventual winners of the carnival and to the following Age Champions:

**HOUSE SHIELD**

1st: LOCHABER 4422
2nd: PENOLA 3897
3rd: TENISON 3367
4th: KIRBY 3249

**Girls - Aggregate Shield**

1st: LOCHABER 1429
2nd: PENOLA 820
3rd: TENISON 793
4th: KIRBY 773

**Boys - Aggregate Shield**

1st: PENOLA 3104
2nd: LOCHABER 2993
3rd: TENISON 2547
4th: KIRBY 2476

**INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONS**

- u/3 Girls Age Champion – Athletics: Kylah Williams
- u/3 Girls Runner Up – Athletics: Esha-Brayshaw
- u/4 Girls Age Champion – Athletics: Jessica Minifie
- u/4 Girls Runner Up – Athletics: Samantha Richardson
- u/5 Girls Age Champion – Athletics: Charlotte Kenny
- u/5 Girls Runner Up – Athletics: Kaitlin Minifie
- u/5 Girls Runner Up – Athletics: Saasha Hinks
- u/6 Girls Age Champion – Athletics: Lauren Thornton
- u/6 Girls Runner Up – Athletics: Jemma Smith
- u/3 Boys Age Champion – Athletics: Adrian Butterworth
- u/3 Boys Runner Up – Athletics: Angus Murrell
- u/4 Boys Age Champion – Athletics: Jackson Lewis
- u/4 Boys Joined Age Champion – Athletics: William Gergel
- u/4 Boys Runner Up – Athletics: Sam Green
- u/5 Boys Age Champion – Athletics: Seamus Hallam
- u/5 Boys Joint Runner Up – Athletics: Kyle Vincent
- u/5 Boys Joint Runner Up – Athletics: Thomas Willing
- u/6 Boys Age Champion – Athletics: James Gill
- u/6 Boys Runner Up – Athletics: Sebastian Storic

Dr Sally Towns  
**DIRECTOR OF STUDENT WELLBEING**

**PERSONAL SAFETY**

Last week, The Mercury reported an incident that occurred whereby a young high-school student in Hobart was approached by a person in a vehicle and invited to get into a car to avoid bad weather. Thankfully, the student responded extremely well by not going into the vehicle, and advising his parents, who contacted the Police. The Police are currently pursuing the matter.

Previously at Mackillop, we have addressed stranger danger with our students during Personal Development by using the “Daniel Morcombe – Foundation Red” resources. I encourage parents to reinforce these messages:

1. Act quickly to make things safe.
2. It’s okay to say No!
3. Never listen or agree to be near a stranger.
4. Never go with a stranger - no matter what the stranger says.
5. Always be aware of your surroundings and keep an eye on your belongings.
6. Tell a trusted adult if something has happened.
8. Trust instincts and feelings. If you think it is wrong then it probably is.

**DIRECTOR OF STUDENT WELLBEING**

Mr Nicholas Lahey

**METRO BUS ISSUES**

In recent weeks we have had a few problems with the morning bus from the Shoreline bus interchange. I have contacted Metro and requested that this bus depart on schedule to ensure the young people travelling on it are on-time for the start of the day.

**WHOLE COLLEGE FORMAL ASSEMBLY**

Tuesday September 1 is the formal College Assembly for Term 3. All students should be in formal uniform unless they have HPE classes on this day.

**UNIFORM**

With winter coming to an end next week I ask for parents’ support in helping us ensure that students wear the correct uniform to the College. The sport uniform is not the easy option. As stated in all College communications, the formal uniform must be worn to the College on all days with the only exception being when students have an HPE/Outdoor Education practical lesson on that day. Even though we are in a spell of nice pre-spring weather the changeover to summer uniform happens as part of the beginning of next term. Boys should still be wearing the winter shirt with ties, the blazer should be worn to and from the College and Year 10 Leavers’ hoodies should only be worn with the College sport uniform.

**MRS SUE HOWARD**

**DEPUTY PRINCIPAL**

**VINNIES REPORT**

People often involve themselves in organisations such as St Vincent De Paul for different reasons. Some people are simply driven to support and serve those in need, whilst others have had first-hand experience of what it is like to suffer.

A four day Vinnies buddy camp in which Charlotte Kenny and I participated in during the term holidays enabled me to meet a man named Mike*: someone who not only knows what it feels like to be in need of support, but someone who has dramatically turned his life around and now volunteers with St Vincent De Paul, helping those who find themselves in a similar position to what he once experienced.

Every night close to 400 Tasmanians sleep rough. Once upon a time, this statistic included Mike - a man who once had to sleep and live out the back of Spotlight, on our streets... whilst I, along with others were warm, fed, clean and mostly importantly loved. Mike’s story of struggle allowed me to see things in a different perspective, but most importantly, his story of SUPPORT, has enabled me to realise just how important organisations like St Vincent De Paul are for people who are unable to receive support from anywhere else.

Although I am unable to go into any lengthy detail about Mike’s story, I hope that this has allowed you to realise that homelessness and suffering is a REAL THING. Please, if you are wanting to help support people like Mike, join our school Vinnies Team, and if not, please look out for those around you- check up on your peers and support each other.

“We think sometimes that poverty is only being hungry, naked and homeless. The poverty of being unwanted, unloved and uncared for is the greatest poverty. We must start in our own homes to remedy this kind of poverty.” - Mother Teresa, 1910-1977

*We didn’t use Mike’s real name in order to protect his privacy.

By Meg Francis

Meg Francis is one of our many wonderful Vinnies volunteers who dedicate their time to helping out in our community. Last term our Vinnies ran a fruif toast and hot Milo breakfast program. This term, Meg’s Year 9 Maths Extended class was so inspired by Mrs Pat Graham’s lesson on permutations and combinations that they decided to put their skills to the test by rasing money for Vinnies. Meg’s efforts, assisted by Kate Broom and Zoe Tedes, resulted in making a $21.60 donation to Vinnies. Well done!

**EXTRAS WITH THIS NEWSLETTER:**

- Mackillop College Quiz Night 2015 Report
- Sports News: Edition 5

**WHAT’S NEW PUSSYCAT?**

Arriving at the brand new Guildford Young College Don Bosco Creative Arts Centre on Tuesday 27th July there was a slight feeling of “are we in over our heads”. Not only had we convinced ourselves that we could rehearse a musical in 12 weeks but this piece was like nothing we had worked in before. However, the cast and crew of What’s New Pussy Cat? were an unstoppable force with a very clear goal.

Continually I am blessed with working with an amazing group of young people with a variety of gifts and talents. I am always impressed with how much students grow as performers once we hit production week, but also the resilience these young people show as well as the care they show for each other.

Throughout the process I witnessed students develop their confidence and while there were challenges I am extremely proud of how they faced these, found their ‘feet’ and their ‘voice’. The dedication of the student musicians and backstage crew support is why I am always reminding my students that “acting is only one aspect of a great production”.

All of this would not be possible if it weren’t for the wonderful support from Mackillop staff, parents and community.

**Ms Katrina Haig**

**MISS PHILLIP WOOGAR, 2015 COLLEGE PRODUCTION DIRECTOR**

“This musical was very rewarding for me, and a big step forward in so many ways. Every performance was really fun and different, and when the last performance finished on Saturday night it was a really interesting mix of feelings. To me, there was fulfillment, joy, pride and a tad of sadness because it was all over, and we’d have to go back to our old ways at school, where we didn’t see each other nearly as much. It was a slow process, but I believe we all did grow close and develop a bond between each other in the lead up to the performance week.

My favourite part of the musical was not one particular moment, but a whole lot that were similar. Every time a song went smoothly, or the audience couldn’t control their laughter, or a joke was shared on stage between the cast and sometimes band, was a time I felt the most uplifted and happy. I wouldn’t change what happened in and out of performances for the world.”

Claire Callan-Puss